

*A small group of
keenly interested,
deeply motivated and
talented individuals has
the opportunity to
spend almost a year in
Sacramento as
California Senate
Fellows. With the
State Capitol as both
workplace and
classroom, Senate
Fellows serve as full-
time professional
legislative staff.
Fellows receive a
monthly stipend,
participate in academic
seminars conducted by
university faculty and
earn graduate credits.*

The background of the entire page is a photograph of the California State Capitol building in Sacramento. The building is a large, white, neoclassical structure with a prominent dome topped by a golden orb. In the foreground, there is a large, ornate fountain with multiple jets of water spraying upwards. The fountain is surrounded by lush greenery and colorful flowers, including red and white roses. The sky is clear and blue.

CALIFORNIA SENATE FELLOWS

2004 - 2005

"Work in the Capitol is a dynamic 'learn by doing' process. The constant movement and unpredictable schedule make each day a new adventure – filled with interesting people and events. There are endless opportunities to learn and the support available to maximize these possibilities."

Tami Bui



"The fellowship is vastly different from being an 'intern.' I was trusted with substantive legislative responsibilities – staffing bills and serving as the key staff person in my office with respect to education policy. It was an experience I'll never forget."

Jeff Hale



California State University,
Sacramento

Dear Friend:

At no other time in its history has California been so squarely at the forefront of societal change and public policy demands. The list of challenges and opportunities for meaningful public policy decision-making is unprecedented in this state or any other.

A small group of keenly interested, deeply motivated and talented individuals has the opportunity to work within this environment as California Senate Fellows. With the Capitol as both workplace and classroom, Senate Fellows serve as professional Senate staff members and earn graduate units from California State University, Sacramento (CSUS).

CSUS is proud to jointly sponsor the California Senate Fellows program with the State Senate. We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alexander Gonzalez". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Alexander" and last name "Gonzalez" clearly distinguishable.

ALEXANDER GONZALEZ

President
California State University, Sacramento

"I entered the program with little political experience and lots of curiosity. People went out of their way to share their expertise and invest in my personal and professional development. Within such a supportive and intellectually rich climate, I grew in confidence and the ability to articulate my values in the Capitol's marketplace of ideas."

Grace Metzger



"I learned so much so quickly. This fellowship gave me real professional opportunities and significant responsibilities within a collaborative environment. It allowed me to both witness and participate in public policy taking shape."

John Harris

Experience and Insight Into the Legislative Process

The California Senate Fellows program grew out of a desire to provide people of diverse ages, experience and backgrounds with insight into the legislative process. It offers college graduates a paid, full-time legislative staff position in the State Capitol for 11 months. Fellows also participate in academic seminars conducted by university faculty.

The fellowship experience is intended to broaden the perspective of those planning academic, business or government careers so that they will carry into their chosen fields an understanding of the legislative process and how it relates to their work.

In addition to providing Fellows with exposure to the legislative process, the program provides Senate members and policy committees with research and other professional staff assistance.

Fellows are expected to have strong interests in public policy and politics. Prior legislative experience is not required.



"I was exposed to various aspects of state government and developed a more thorough understanding of the relationship between public and private entities. As a result, I feel better prepared to go back to my community and make it a healthier place to live and raise a family."

Nadia Leal



"In an era where political cynicism is widespread, the fellowship represents a valuable opportunity to learn that individuals do matter and that the political process can work. The nexus between the government and its citizens has never been more important, frustrating, or exhilarating."

Derek Ishikawa

A five-week orientation at the beginning of the program includes information and discussion pertaining to state government, the legislative process and major policy issues. Fellows meet and learn from legislative staff, journalists, lobbyists and various state government officials.

The fellowship program was established in 1973. In 1984, the program affiliated with the Center for California Studies at California State University, Sacramento (CSUS) and is now operated jointly by the Senate and CSUS.

Senate Fellows often continue working in the public policy arena after completing the program. Many hold senior staff positions with the Legislature, and others hold high-level positions in the executive branch. Some former Fellows now serve as elected officials in local government or as members of the Legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Alumni move back and forth between the public and private sectors during the course of their careers and are found in virtually every profession and vocation.



While participating in mock committee hearings, Fellows assume the roles of Senators, staff, lobbyists and members of the public.



The Academic Component

The academic portion of the Senate Fellows program consists of two graduate seminars taught by faculty from the CSUS Government Department.

Weekly seminars in the Capitol provide an academic perspective to complement what each Fellow is learning through his or her office placement. The seminars also afford an opportunity for Fellows to discuss their respective fellowship work experiences.

The academic component increases knowledge and understanding of legislatures and state government, thereby enhancing the Fellows' effectiveness as Senate staff. The program Faculty Advisor assigns written projects and oral presentations.

Fellows register as CSUS graduate students during the Spring 2005 semester. All CSUS fees are paid through the program; there is no cost to individual Fellows.

"The academic component of the program was a perfect balance of serious discussion and fun. Our weekly seminars were a refreshing respite from the busy work week and provided time to reconnect with the other Fellows."

Ellen Ravert



Senate Fellows receive 12 units of graduate credit through the Government Department. Although the units are applicable toward a graduate degree at CSUS, separate application to a specific degree program is required. Other universities accept the units on a case-by-case basis.

Fellows are eligible to defer their student loans for the duration of the program.

Fellows participate in weekly academic seminars conducted in the Capitol.



"The Senate Fellows program placed me one step closer to realizing my goals and reinforced my passion and dedication to public service. Working with the other Fellows provided a chance to collaborate with some of the most talented young leaders from across the state."

Danny Aguilar



2002-2003 SENATE FELLOWS



Front Row, Left to Right: Ellen R. Ravert; James J. Westbrooks; Cristy E. Johnston; Nadia Leal; Tam M. Ma; Gabriel A. Meyer; and Daniel J. Aguilar.

Back Row, Left to Right: Kenneth M. DeVore; Tami Thi Bui; Soren L.F. Tjernell; John K. Harris; Grace R. Metzger; Jeffrey R. Hale; Derek K. Ishikawa; Ana Gamiz; Jesús Torres; Nicholas M. Janof; and Kristin L. Fortin.

2002-2003 Senate Fellows

DANIEL J. AGUILAR

Los Angeles, CA
B.A. (History, Political Science),
UC* Berkeley

TAMI THI BUI

Santa Ana, CA
B.A. (Political Science),
UC Irvine

KENNITH M. DEVORE

Marysville, CA
B.A. (Political Science),
CSU** Chico

KRISTIN L. FORTIN

San Diego, CA
B.A. (Rhetorical Theory),
Pepperdine University

ANA GAMIZ

Pomona, CA
B.A. (Economics, Spanish
Literature),
Pomona College

JEFFREY R. HALE

Whittier, CA
B.A. (Political Science),
UC Los Angeles

JOHN K. HARRIS

Clovis, NM
B.S. (Engineering and
Applied Science),
California Institute of Technology

DEREK K. ISHIKAWA

Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
B.A. (Public Policy Analysis),
Pomona College

NICHOLAS M. JANOF

Gold River, CA
B.A. (Economics, Government),
Claremont McKenna College

CRISTY E. JOHNSTON

San Francisco, CA
B.A. (Political Science),
UC Berkeley

NADIA LEAL

Los Angeles, CA
B.A. (Urban Studies and
Planning),
UC San Diego

TAM M. MA

Los Angeles, CA
B.A. (Political Science),
UC Berkeley

GRACE R. METZGER

San Andreas, CA
B.A. (English),
Simpson College

GABRIEL A. MEYER

San Diego, CA
B.A. (Economics, Public Policy
Studies),
Duke University

Ellen R. Ravert

Norco, CA
B.A. (History, Law and Society),
UC Riverside

SOREN L.F. TJERNELL

Novato, CA
B.A. (Literature),
Claremont McKenna College

JESÚS TORRES

Oxnard, CA
B.A. (Sociology),
UC Berkeley

JAMES J. WESTBROOKS

Inglewood, CA
B.A. (Political Science),
Howard University

* University of California

** California State University

The Work of a Senate Fellow

What does a Fellow do?

Fellows perform the full range of professional staff functions associated with busy legislative offices.

During the orientation period, Fellows participate in an interview process that results in their assignment to a specific office for the remainder of the program. Although each Fellow's placement is unique, there are two main categories – assignments to Senators' Capitol offices and placements with Senate policy committees. Often, there is a mix of committee and personal office work responsibilities.

Senate Member's Office

Fellows assigned to the Capitol offices of Senate members have a variety of tasks in different policy issue areas. Primarily, they assist their Senators in developing and implementing the member's legislative agenda.

Fellows work on their legislator's bills, write speeches and press releases, meet with constituents and lobbyists, aid with constituent inquiries and casework, speak to



"I had the opportunity to staff my Senator's highest profile bill. In the process, I helped conduct research, evaluate policy options, write the legislation, negotiate amendments, compose 'op-eds' and speeches, and craft strategy. My experience taught me the importance of collaboration, flexibility, and attention to detail."

Nick Janof

school groups and perform other delegated responsibilities.

Senate Policy Committees

Fellows are part of the professional staff who analyze legislation before it is heard in committee. Each committee is assigned responsibility for considering legislation in specific issue areas. Consequently, Fellows assigned to policy committees specialize and develop expertise with respect to the subject matter jurisdiction of the committee.

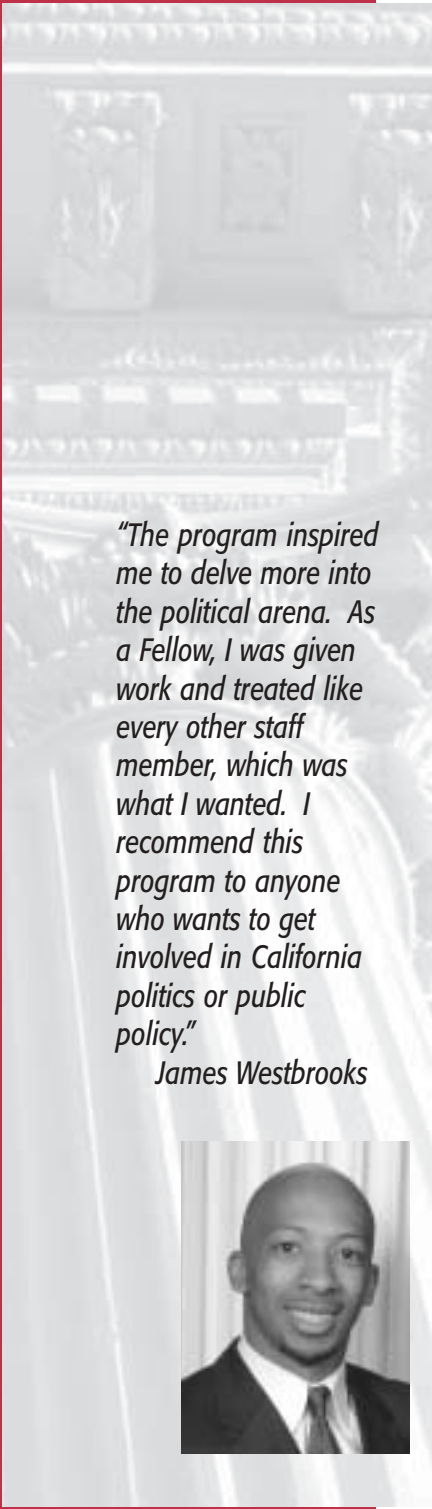
Additional committee staff responsibilities include assisting the chairperson with committee-related legislation (s)he is moving through the Legislature and special research assignments.



"With full responsibility for several pieces of legislation, I was able to perform an amazing number of tasks related to law and public policy. This experience will make me a better advocate for the issues I care about – no matter where I end up."

Tam Ma





"The program inspired me to delve more into the political arena. As a Fellow, I was given work and treated like every other staff member, which was what I wanted. I recommend this program to anyone who wants to get involved in California politics or public policy."

James Westbrook



"I was pushed up to and beyond any limits I set for myself and was challenged daily with respect to my abilities and my opinions – all the while under the watch of some of the most seasoned mentors in the Capitol. I could not have asked for greater mentorship, support and real-world experience."

Cristy Johnston



Stipend

Fellows receive monthly stipends as well as health and dental benefits. The amount of the monthly stipend for the 2003-2004 fiscal year is \$1882.

Who Can Apply

The program welcomes applications from anyone who will graduate from a four-year college or university by September 2004 and who is authorized to work in the United States for the duration of the program. Applicants need not be California residents; however, preference will be given to candidates who demonstrate knowledge of – and commitment to – the state. There is no preferred major. Recent graduates, individuals with advanced degrees, and those in mid-career are all encouraged to apply.

Application Process

Every applicant must submit a packet consisting of the completed application, college transcript(s), two letters of recommendation and a personal statement. **Applicants are encouraged to utilize the online application form.** Complete instructions are included on Page 4 of the application.



"My assignment with the Budget and Fiscal Review Committee gave me a front row seat to the state budget process during California's worst ever fiscal crisis. I dissected the budgets of various state agencies, looking for ways to save money. I saw how legislators develop policy priorities in a time of scarce resources."

Gabe Meyer

Selection Process

Eighteen Fellows are selected in May. Fellowships are awarded after an initial screening of applications and panel interviews of finalists conducted in Los Angeles and Sacramento. (The selection panel is unable to conduct interviews by telephone, and funds are not available to reimburse applicants for travel expenses.)

Alternates are also selected and may be offered fellowships at any time before the program begins in October 2004.

Academic background and grade point average are important criteria. However, the selection panel carefully considers each applicant's employment history, depth and breadth of community and campus activities, and demonstrated interest in politics and public policy.

Applicants' personal statements are an especially significant part of the application packet.

There are many desirable characteristics associated with prospective Fellows — including maturity, initiative, flexibility, exceptional communication skills, and well-developed organizational and analytical abilities.



"On any given day, I could be negotiating with lobbyists, briefing my Senator before a hearing, drafting amendments, writing constituents, or analyzing committee bills. Sometimes I would look back on my week and think: 'Did I really do all that?'"

Soren Tjernell

For Further Information

Contact:

California Senate Fellows Center for California Studies

California State University,
Sacramento

6000 J Street

Sacramento, CA 95819-6081

(916) 278-6906

*[www.csus.edu/calst/programs/
senate_fellows.html](http://www.csus.edu/calst/programs/senate_fellows.html)

Daniel Friedlander

Program Director

(916) 278-5408

dan.friedlander@sen.ca.gov

or

California Senate Fellows Senate Rules Committee

State Capitol, Room 400

Sacramento, CA 95814

(916) 322-7563

[www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/
_home/](http://www.sen.ca.gov/ftp/sen/fellows/_home/)

Applications are available through your State Senator, campus career placement center, or upon request from either of the above addresses.

**Includes information about all four fellowship programs administered by the Center for California Studies*

"I anxiously waited for six years to become a Senate Fellow. I first learned about the program while I was a summer intern in 1996. This rewarding experience changed my life. I enjoyed working for the Senate so much that I am considering running for public office someday."

Ana Gamiz





"The experiences and lessons from this fellowship make you grow personally as well as professionally. Seeing firsthand how the legislative process works is unlike what I learned in my government class."
Jesús Torres

Applications and the text of this brochure can be printed from the Center and Senate Web sites.

The application can be filled out online using the Center's Web site. This eliminates the need for using a typewriter or for printing by hand. Although information can be entered online, the completed application cannot be saved to a computer and must be printed out, signed and submitted along with the rest of the application packet.

Calendar of Important Dates

February 25, 2004	Application deadline
May 6 & 7, 2004	Sacramento interview dates
May 13 & 14, 2004	Los Angeles interview dates
May 2004	Notification of selection
October 2004	Senate Fellows begin orientation
September 2005	Program concludes

Filing Deadline: February 25, 2004

Completed application packets must be postmarked no later than February 25, 2004, to be eligible for consideration. There are no exceptions to the application deadline.

The Center for California Studies is a public education, public service and applied research unit of California State University, Sacramento devoted to promoting understanding of California's history, cultures and public policies. Founded in 1984 and located on the capital campus of the California State University, the Center possesses a unique trust: to bring the resources of the state's largest university system to the service of public discourse, civic education and state government. The Center draws on the services and talents of scholars throughout the 23 campuses of the California State University and on the expertise of professionals and practitioners throughout the state.



The fellowship gave me the opportunity to bridge the expansive divide between the life I had as a student and the life I aspire to build through public service. My Senator served as a mentor by demonstrating the role of a successful, ethical problem solver in the complex interaction of law, policy and people."

Kristin Fortin